

# INFORMATION RELEASE



## Office of the Director

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### **ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION OPENS BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN POPE COUNTY**

**LITTLE ROCK (6-1)** -- The Arkansas State Highway Commission has opened bids for improvements to roadways in Pope County, according to Commissioner John Burkhalter of Little Rock.

The first project will resurface six miles of Highway 7, near the town of Simpson. Blackstone Construction, LLC, of Russellville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$1,047,280.26.

“This resurfacing project will begin at Simpson and extend northward to Muddy Gap,” Burkhalter stated.

The purpose of the second project is to resurface approximately 7.5 miles of Highway 124, near Appleton. Blackstone Construction, LLC, of Russellville, Arkansas, was awarded the contract at \$1,479,128.35.

“These improvements will begin at Highway 105 and continue eastward to the Conway County line,” stated Burkhalter.

Burkhalter noted that the project on Highway 124 is being funded with proceeds from the increase in the natural gas severance tax passed by the state legislature in 2008.

Burkhalter said work could begin on the projects in two to four weeks, weather permitting. Completion is expected on both highways in late October of this year.

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